Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows to reflect the proper status identifiers.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of disseminating information to a plurality of nodes, the nodes connected in a network environment, said method comprising:

receiving, at a given node, a[[the]] disseminated message, the message having broadcast-type information; and

for the given node, sending the [[received]] message to a plurality of other nodes identified in a partial view, wherein the partial view is specific to the given[[each node,]] node and resides locally to the given node, and [[identifies a subset of the]]identifies any two or more but less than all other [[network]]nodes independent of hierarchical relationships, wherein the number of nodes identified in the partial view was determined in order to provide a determined probability of the message being sent to all nodes. ~~subset may comprise any of the network nodes.~~

2. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the act of sending the message to [[a]]the plurality of other nodes further comprises [[delivery]]sending of the message to all nodes identified in the partial view.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein each node in the network maintains a partial view.

4. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the partial view comprises address information for [[a]] at least one of the plurality of subscribed nodes ~~on the network, but less than all nodes on the network~~.

5. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the received message has been previously received; and

if the message has been previously received, then the message is not sent to any other node identified in the partial view[[nodes]].

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5 further comprising the act of storing identification information related to the received message to enable the determination of whether the message has been previously received.

7. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the message is a broadcast-type message; and

if the message is not a broadcast-type message, the message is not sent to any other node identified in the partial view[[nodes]].

8 – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A computer system for disseminating information in a distributed network of nodes, each node comprising:

a receive module for receiving a broadcast message;

a storage module for storing information related to other nodes ~~in the network~~ in a partial [[view;]]view, wherein the partial view is specific to each node and identifies any two or more but less than all other nodes independent of hierarchical relationships and the number of nodes identified in the partial view was determined in order to provide a determined probability of the message being sent to all nodes; and

a communication module for transmitting broadcast information to nodes indicated in the partial view.

21. (Currently amended) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the partial view comprises address information for at least one other node~~some of the nodes in the network~~.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the communication module is operable to transmit[[s]] broadcast information to all nodes identified in the partial view.

23. (Previously presented) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the computer system is part of a distributed network of computer systems, and wherein other computer systems in the network maintain a partial view of the network.

24. (Currently amended) A network of nodes having the ability to communicate information between said nodes, said network comprising:

an application-based broadcast protocol using a gossip-based algorithm;

each node maintains a partial view of the entire network, independent of hierarchical relationships, wherein number of nodes identified in the partial view was determined in order to provide a determined probability of a message being sent to all nodes; and

each node gossips only to [[other]] nodes identified in each node's [[the]] partial view.

25. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:

a first identification field for storing address location information for a node in a network environment;

a second identification field for storing address location information for another node in a network environment;

wherein the first and second identification fields represent a partial view of the network environment; and

wherein the data structure is used for a gossip-based communication between the nodes in the network.

26. (Currently amended) A data structure as defined in claim 25 having a plurality of additional identification fields, each field identifying address information for ~~different~~ additional subscribed nodes in the network but less than all nodes in the network.

27-29 (Canceled).

30. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising dynamically updating one or more partial views, wherein the act of updating the partial view comprises:

receiving a request to subscribe to the network from a new node;

determining whether to keep [[the]] new node information related to the new node; and

if the new node information is to be kept, storing identifying information related to the new node; and

forwarding the subscription request message to at least one other node in the network.

31. (Withdrawn) A method as described in claim 30 wherein the determining act further comprises:

predetermining a threshold value;

upon receipt of the request to subscribe, generating a random number;

comparing the random number to the predetermined threshold value; and

based on the results of the comparison determining whether to keep the information related to the new node.

32. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 31 wherein the threshold value relates to whether the ~~subscribing~~new node randomly chose the given node as the receiving node.

33. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 30 wherein the subscription request is received by [[a]]the given node having [[a]]the partial view of the network and wherein the subscription request is forwarded to all nodes identified in the partial view of the given~~receiving~~ node.

34. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 30 wherein the subscription request is received by [[a]]the given node having a partial view of the network and wherein the subscription request is forwarded to only one node identified in the partial view of the given~~receiving~~ node.

35. (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 33 further comprising:

receiving a forwarding subscription request;

determining whether to keep the new subscription request based on predetermined criterion; and

keeping the new node information if the predetermined criterion is satisfied.

36. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 30 further comprising:

determining whether the new subscription request is new or forwarded; and

if forwarded, determine whether to keep the new node information based on a predetermined criteria wherein the predetermined criteria relates to a random selection.

37. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 36 wherein the predetermined criterion relates to a probability inversely proportional to the size of the partial view for the given~~existing~~ node.

38. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 37 wherein the predetermined criterion further relates to the distance between the new node and the given~~existing~~ node.

39. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method as defined in claim 37 wherein the act of determining whether to keep the new node ~~subscription~~ information first determines whether the new node ~~subscription~~ information resides in the partial view of the given~~receiving~~ node and if so, forwards the subscription request to another node identified in the partial view of the ~~receiving~~given node.